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SECURITY INFORMATION

25 May 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT : Air Estimates

1. In the course of a routine personnel matter, the allegation has been made to this office that the Chief of the Air Branch, Industrial Division, O/RR, has insisted that his branch conform in its estimates on Soviet air strength to the estimates being made by the USAF.

2. This allegation, if true, raises three questions:

a. What useful function is performed by the Air Branch in making such estimates if it is required to conform to estimates prepared by the Air Force, rather than arrive at an independent estimate?

b. Why is CIA making estimates on Soviet air strength when this is a function of the Air Force, and wasn't the reorganization undertaken in 1951, in which ORE was broken up and ORR created, designed to eliminate such duplication?

c. Is it advisable to have an Air Force officer heading a branch in CIA which by its very nature must conflict with Air Force estimates?

/s/
Lyman B. Kirkpatrick
Inspector General

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